

## "Investing" In California Land

IN EL PASO during the current year there have been sold not a few tracts of California land which have not always turned out to be exactly what the purchasers expected to get. It is curious how people who claim to be in possession of all their senses can be so easily taken in by every smooth tongued artist that comes along.

Here is El Paso, known to everybody, with a wonderful history of never having had a setback in realty values, of never having had a "boom" to be followed inevitably by a disastrous reaction; here is El Paso, with a wonderful record of progress in the last ten years (150 percent increase) and in the last one or two years, wherein there has been invested many millions of dollars in fine permanent structures and in public works; here is El Paso, with real estate men who have been established here many years, whose responsibility is well known, whose properties are sterling and well established, whose prices are right, and whose dealings are just and above board.

Yet people will be found to buy anything offered, just so long as it is a thousand or two miles away from home, and totally unknown to the person who may be led to invest his money in the wonderful stuff.

Among recent offerings in El Paso, through a nonresident agent, are lots "at the very top of the Coast Range mountains, at least 12 miles as the crow flies, west of Gilroy, Calif., and 15 to 18 miles by road and trail. Five dollars per acre would be an extremely outside figure for the land." The quotation is from a report by secretary Thayer of the chamber of commerce of Gilroy, Calif.

The recorder of deeds of Santa Clara county writes officially about the same tract of land: "I have received a number of inquiries of late from El Paso, Texas, parties, about this tract. One rank swindle during the past 15 months has taken in several thousand purchasers—all strangers to this county. Lots in the new 'park' are selling rapidly in El Paso, Texas; we are receiving about five each day for record." Other citizens of Gilroy report having received inquiries about the lots.

About the land "on the very top of the Coast Range mountains, at least 12 miles from Gilroy as the crow flies," one inquirer writes thus from El Paso, Texas: "The agent (of the California company) informs me that the tract is located less than a mile from the beautiful city of Gilroy, that the streets are staked out and that the land is level, with some timber on it. Lots in this tract are being sold in El Paso, and I have purchased one, 25x100 feet, and wish to know its value." At the rate of \$5 per acre, which is stated to be "an extremely outside figure," the lot would be worth rather less than 30c.

It is safe to say that nowhere in the United States today can there be found real estate offerings which can beat El Paso city and suburban tracts for present intrinsic worth and promise of profitable increase. There is no reason to go afield for the good things. Look around you—they are right under your eyes.

## Clean Politics Can Win

WATCHING the poll tax payments is the first step toward betterment of local election conditions. The faction that accomplishes decent observance of the Terrell act will deserve the thanks of the innocent by-standers, no matter what else the successful faction may stand for.

There are two ways of winning an election or a primary, over strong organized protest. One way is to form a stronger organization and adopt all the crooked methods of the other side and go them one better—that method rarely succeeds, but it is mighty costly and altogether demoralizing to the community and everybody in it. The other way is to devote the utmost efforts of a strong organization to preventing the other side from using crooked methods.

A determined effort on the part of either or both Democratic factions locally would put a stop to the violations of law and of common political decency that have been common in the past. The old political excuse for any kind of crookedness in a factional or party fight was, "You must fight the devil with fire"; but it is well to remember that the devil is not in the least afraid of fire—he is used to it and knows how to handle it. What the general gentleman really fears is pure cold water—that is something he does not understand.

The way to fight the crooked politician is with lawful, clean, reputable methods that thrive in the brightest light—but always bearing in mind that the crooked politician, like the devil, is almighty persistent and energetic, while his well meaning opponent as a general rule is intermittent, forgetful, careless, and lazy.

News that "the state of Chihuahua is peaceful" is furnished the newspapers by the Mexican officials, "subject to release" as newspaper lingo has it. There is often a moment or two in the day when the news is true.

Pity Woodrow Wilson to think of how a lot of his pet reforms and intentions will have gone back a couple of weeks after inauguration. He never went against a game like that before. The office hunting scramble will take up most of his time for several months, while congress settles itself in behind the pie counter.

## Such Cheap Revenge

AS IF it did not have enough sins to answer for, the Taft administration is performing anything but creditably in removing Texas federal officials for the sole reason that they favored the nomination and election of Col. Roosevelt, and stood by Cecil Lyon. The Republicans of Texas, are not likely to forget the coarse play at Chicago, when Taft delegates were seated without the shadow of a just claim. This petty revenge now that it is all over, is rubbing it in. After a loss of 4,000,000 votes in four years, it is strange that the president would immediately lend himself to such cheap ward politics as this. The president is a poor loser.

El Paso city automobile license numbers now run to 1225, including motorcycles. There are probably well over 1000 automobiles, for which El Pasoans have invested \$1,000,000 or more—most of it within the last three or four years. If the Spanish-American part of the population be left out of the calculation, there is one automobile to every five families in El Paso.

They vaccinate now against typhoid and smallpox, and screening the dwelling places prevents yellow fever mosquitoes from spreading that disease. Cannot one of the two methods be adopted with reference to the Mexican revolution microbes? It seems as if Mexico were badly in need of social and political sanitation.

## One-Sentence Philosophy

**QUAKER MEDITATIONS.**  
(Philadelphia Record.)  
In the matter of shoes a woman can always wear a size smaller, if it comes to a pinch.  
Virtue may be its own reward, but many a man parades his virtues with a brass band.  
Slobbery—"His speech is pretty blunt." Slobbery—"Yes, his remarks are generally pointed."  
Occasionally we hear of a man who has such a strong will that even his heirs can't break it.  
When a married man talks in his sleep it may be because that is the only chance he ever gets.  
"All that glitters isn't gold," quoted the optimist. "No, it is always a gold brick," added the pessimist.  
"I suppose your brought you here," remarked the magistrate severely. "Yes, for honor, the cop that arrested me was loaded to the nozzle," replied the prisoner.

**POINTED PARAGRAPHS.**  
(Chicago News.)  
People are always doing things they would condemn in others.  
If a man and wife are one it is because they are tied for first place.  
And a tricky man, like a worn out deck of cards, is hard to deal with.  
When a woman shrugs her shoulders at the mention of another woman's name it is a sign she can tell something.  
When a man tells you that his word is as good as his bond it doesn't necessarily imply that his bond is any good.

## Fish, Big Aid To Commerce

Millions Yielded by Whale Oil, Ambergris, Sponges, Pearls and Shells

By Frederic J. Haskin

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 2.—It must not be overlooked that the fisheries of the United States yield millions of dollars of annual revenue for commercial products which have no reference to the food supply. The oldest of these is the whaling industry which, while not as important as in former years because of the development of substitutes for some of its products, is yet important enough to merit consideration. There are three products from the whale which make it valuable to the world. The first is the oil which amounts to nearly \$500,000 annually to American fishermen. The whalebone is also a valuable product which accounts for the last published report, yielded \$608,411 to commerce. The third is ambergris, a rare and peculiar substance found occasionally in whales in large masses weighing from one to two hundred pounds. It has been known from the ancient times and is esteemed as a remedy for fevers and nervous troubles. It is now used occasionally in incense. Its greatest value is in the manufacture of perfumes because it makes the other odors stronger and more lasting. The annual value of the whalebone and ambergris is approximately \$3,000,000.

**Want Closed Season for Whales.**  
The decrease in the number of whales in the North Pacific waters has become so marked that the commissioner of fisheries of the state of Washington is advocating a closed season for whales.

The report of an abundance of whales off the coast of Brazil is likely to lead to greater activities in the southern waters. The first whaling steamer ever seen in these waters was last year and it secured more than 100 whales in a single season. The whaling industry in Norway is said to have taken in at least two large whales in the vicinity of the coast of Norway. The number of whales killed in a radius of 15 miles of that city last year was something over 200 half of which were taken by local whaling boats. It is expected that this year will be a remarkable one in that locality.

It is interesting to note that the war upon the whale in the northern hemisphere is threatening its extinction and that the Greenland whale has already practically succumbed. Because of the large whales its range was restricted to the Arctic Ocean. Until 18 years ago this species was taken almost exclusively from human persecution because of its formidable strength, but after the invention of the bomb harpoon which can be fired from a gun and exploded in the whale's vital parts, it has been able to make little defense. Steam whalers in the Arctic Ocean have taken in a short work even of the greatest monsters that can be found in the sea. In the year 1911 according to a British report, the total number of whales killed in the world was 22,500. They yielded 620,000 barrels of oil valued at \$1,500,000. It is estimated that this year's trade will far exceed this.

**Fishing for Sponges.**  
One of the fishing industries of this country is that of sponge taking, which is so far confined to the coast of Florida. Sponges fishing is one of the most interesting of the fishing activities although it calls for a special class of fishermen. Among the sponges which have been taken in the Florida waters are the Greek sponge, which has been taken in the Florida waters for many years. The sponge fisherman is a most interesting figure. Before that, all the Florida sponge fishing was done by looking from boats. In the bookkeeping operations the vessels were fitted out by the men who own them and let on to the sponge fisherman. The vessel consists of six or eight men. The vessel claims a third of the sponges and the rest are divided among the crew. A sponge fishing vessel consists of a boat for every two men, equipped with two or three sponge hooks. The sponge hook is a long pole with a net at the end. The sponge fisherman is a most interesting figure. 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